

DOING MORE TO COMBAT UNDERAGE DRINKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, would not every Member of this House love to have a campaign in which they could run 93 TV ads for every TV ad run by their opponent? There is no doubt which candidate would win.

So it goes with the contest between alcohol commercials and responsible drinking ads purchased by the alcohol industry.

As reported by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, in 2001 America's youth were 93 times more likely to see an ad promoting alcohol than an industry ad discouraging underage drinking. Although the liquor industry tells us their ads are not targeted at children, our children see plenty of them, and they have enormous impact on our young population. On average, in 2001, an American youngster saw 245 ads promoting alcohol products to only four ads discouraging underage drinking.

The amount of money the liquor industry spends on advertising alcohol is also astounding; and compared to what the industry spends on warnings about underage drinking it is, at best, disappointing.

For example, in the year 2001, the alcohol industry spent \$811 million to air 208,000 alcohol ads, compared to \$23 million for a mere 2,379 responsible drinking ads. In other words, the alcohol industry spent less than 3 percent of its total advertising dollars on responsible drinking. As a result, our youth saw more commercials for beer than for juice, gum, chips, sneakers or jeans, product ads that usually target a young audience.

The power of liquor advertising has been effective. While drinking under the age of 21 is illegal in all 50 States, a recent report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that kids illegally spent over \$22 billion a year on alcohol and they account for 20 percent of all alcohol consumed in our Nation.

These numbers attest to the negative impact of the extensive investment the alcohol industry is making to attract consumers to their products while ignoring their responsibility to be equally diligent about ads warning about the dangers of underage drinking.

Mr. Speaker, why does it matter? It matters because the consequences of underage drinking are devastating to our youth and to our society. According to an NIH study, over 10 million kids in the U.S. consume alcohol illegally, starting, on average, at age 13. The NIH study also found that kids who began drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who begin drinking after the age of 21, 22 times more

likely to use marijuana and 50 times more likely to try cocaine than kids who do not drink. That, Mr. Speaker, is why it matters.

In order to counter the alarming assault on our youth, Congress has commissioned the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences to develop a strategy to reduce underage drinking with a national media campaign at its centerpiece. The report is expected in May.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, the beer wholesalers and others representing the alcohol industry will be visiting congressional offices in the coming weeks to lobby for a reduction in alcohol taxes. When they do, I urge my colleagues to make it clear to the liquor industry that our children are an important and critical asset to our Nation and that we cannot afford to lose them.

I urge my colleagues to put the liquor industry on notice that it must do more than pay for their token underage drinking ads and seriously invest to inform parents and children about the dangers of underage drinking.

ASSUMING THE MANTLE OF RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday I attended the dedication of a recently constructed house of worship at High Point, North Carolina. The minister reminded those of us in the congregation about the past history of the United States, our benevolence, our having offered assistance time and again to our distressed neighbors across the world.

When I heard these words, I concluded that we Americans do need to remind the world, pardon my immodesty, that we are indeed the eternal good guy. We have pulled chestnuts from the fire for many nations and many people; and some who have become beneficiaries of our benevolence conveniently become victims of amnesia.

I recently saw a televised interview, Mr. Speaker, of one protesting our involvement in Iraq, who blamed President Bush for having led us to believe that this would be brief and easy. That charge, Mr. Speaker, is misleading and inaccurate. President Bush from the very outset has made it clear that this encounter would be arduous and demanding.

I have been advised that President Clinton publicly said that this war would be quickly won. I did not hear him say it, but, if he did, it was a reckless, irresponsible conclusion. Such utterances lull observers into what could be a sense of false security and serve no good purpose to our troops.

The United Nations has been disappointing throughout this exercise.

Certain members of the U.N. need to enroll, it seems to me, in refresher leadership courses. Saddam Hussein has danced circles around the U.N., and he surely must be laughing up his sleeve.

Saddam, not unlike the school yard bully, has imposed havoc upon his people and upon his neighbors; and, not unlike the school yard bully, he will continue to destroy until someone has the fortitude to challenge him, to call his bluff.

Permit me to examine Saddam's record during his bloody regime: Thousands have disappeared in the Iraqi prison network; there are numerous accounts of torture and burning of human flesh of accused victims, children dying of starvation, starvation accelerated by Saddam, women notoriously raped in the presence of third parties; and, once this evil dictator is removed, I am confident many additional unbelievable horrible accounts will surface.

Enter President Bush, enter Prime Minister Tony Blair, enter Spain and Australia and others. These leaders have decided the time has come to take on the school yard bully.

Many insist that this is a unilateral operation. Not true. There are many supporters, but they are reluctant to openly oppose Saddam. They fear him. They in fact, Mr. Speaker, are afraid. Many of his neighbors loathe Saddam, but they stand in fear. But the Bush-Blair wagon will move forward with the support, albeit sometimes anonymous, of other nations.

Some observers have suggested that the U.N. should remove the United States from the U.N. Kick the United States out, they say. I have an alternative suggestion: Certain members of the U.N. should be led to the gate that leads to the road out of the country. They might be advised to follow that road if they are unable and are unwilling to assume the mantle of responsible leadership.

Mr. Speaker, meanwhile, the liberation of Iraq advances, as we continue to keep our troops and their families and the troops of our neighbors and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the Committee on International Relations recently introduced H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis Act. The bill is a 5-year, \$15 billion bill providing \$3 billion in relief in each of these 5 years. It provides no minimum for U.S. contributions to the Global Fund and authorizes a maximum of \$1 billion for fiscal